



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER

COMMISSIONERS:
Colin A. Hanna, Chairman
Karen L. Martynick
Andrew E. Dinniman

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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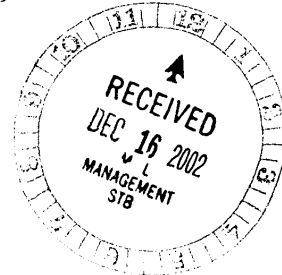


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December 9, 2002



Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Troy Brady
Case Control Unit
Washington DC 20423

206863

**RE: Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1095X); Consolidated Rail Corporation;
Abandonment Exemption - Lancaster and Chester Counties**

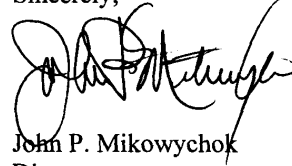
Dear Mr. Brady:

Chester County is responding to your request for comment (Service Date of October 24, 2002) regarding the proposed mitigation for the historical significance of Enola Line and its associated bridge structures.

While documentation of the bridges via photography and an interpretive display/video will help preserve the history of this marvel of early Twentieth Century engineering, we believe that it pales in comparison to the retention of these bridges, as well as the rail corridor in a contiguous state for recreational trail use. Admittedly, Chester County's interest in this line is tempered by the short length of the line within the County (approximately four miles or less). Also, the limitations of the line as it enter the Boroughs of Atglen and Parkesburg, with the line's proximity to active rail service, precludes its use for recreational purposes. Nevertheless, we believe the trail would have merit to Chester County if terminated in West Sadsbury Township or the western end of Atglen Borough. Chester County would support Lancaster County's efforts to maintain this rail-trail, via direct involvement for the Chester County portion only, or via grant incentives to affected municipalities in West Sadsbury Township, Atglen Borough, or Parkesburg Borough (the latter as the trail could be re-routed). These grant incentives, from the County's existing Open Space Grant program, could fund a substantial portion

of necessary trail improvements and recreational facilities, such as trailhead parking and picnicking areas, interpretive facilities, and other user amenities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Mikowychok". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John P. Mikowychok
Director
Dept. of Parks & Recreation

pc: County Board of Commissioners:
Karen L. Martynick, Chairman
Colin A. Hanna
Andrew E. Dinniman
Wayne R. Rothermal, Director of Government Services
Robert C. Folwell, Capital Projects Coordinator
William H. Fulton, Director, Chester County Planning Commission
Jake S. Michael, Open Space Planner, Chester Co. Planning Commission